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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

CAMPBELL, JOSHUA D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/689,927	Applicant(s) LESSING ET AL.	
	Examiner Joshua D. Campbell	Art Unit 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-12, 15-23, 26-34, 36, 38-54, 56, 58-74, 76 and 78-100 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-12, 15-23, 26-34, 36, 38-54, 56, 58-74, 76, and 78-100 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed on 11/18/2005.
2. Claims 1, 4-12, 15-23, 26-34, 36, 38-54, 56, 58-74, 76, and 78-100 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 11, 12, 22, 23, 33, 34, 54, 74, and 94 are independent claims.
3. The rejection of claims 1, 4-10, 12, 15-21, 23, 26-32, and 98-100 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schnelle et al. (hereinafter Schnelle, International Publication Number WO 98/34179, published on August 6, 1998) has been withdrawn.
4. The rejection of Claims 11, 22, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnelle et al. (hereinafter Schnelle, International Publication Number WO 98/34179, published on August 6, 1998) in view of Weinberg et al. (hereinafter Weinberg, US Patent Number 6,144,962, filed on April 11, 1997) has been withdrawn.
5. The rejection of claims 34, 38, 43, 44, 47-50, 54, 58, 63, 64, 67-70, 74, 78, 83, 84, and 87-90 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnelle et al. (hereinafter Schnelle, International Publication Number WO 98/34179, published on August 6, 1998) in view of Fay (US Patent Number 5,892,513, issued on April 6, 1999) has been withdrawn.
6. The rejection of claims 36, 45, 46, 51-53, 56, 65, 66, 71-73, 76, 85, 86, 91-93, and 95-97 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnelle et al. (hereinafter Schnelle, International Publication Number WO 98/34179, published on August 6, 1998) in view of Fay (US Patent Number 5,892,513, issued on April 6, 1999)

Art Unit: 2178

as applied to claims 34, 54, and 74 above, further in view of McIntosh (US Patent Number 6,185,576, filed on October 21, 1998) has been withdrawn.

7. The rejection of claims 39-42, 59-62, and 79-82 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnelle et al. (hereinafter Schnelle, International Publication Number WO 98/34179, published on August 6, 1998) in view of Fay (US Patent Number 5,892,513, issued on April 6, 1999) as applied to claims 34, 54, and 74 above, further in view of Chau et al. (hereinafter Chau, US Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0133484, filing date of December 2, 1999) has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

9. Claims 1, 4-10, 12, 15-21, 23, 26-32, and 98-100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnelle et al. (hereinafter Schnelle, International Publication Number WO 98/34179, published on August 6, 1998) in view of Dolan et al. (hereinafter Dolan, US Patent Number 5,963,208, issued October 5, 1999).

Regarding independent claim 1, Schnelle discloses a method in which a predefined portion of an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup-language, each predefined portion having at least one attribute being a coordinate of an axis of said multidimensional space, wherein local connections among said predefined portions, and any logical connections between those portions and other portions correspond to one or more axes of said

multidimensional space (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle). Schnelle also discloses displaying a point on a primary axis dependent upon an attribute of said predefined portion and displaying a second point on a second, viewing axis orthogonal to said first axis, the second point being derived from said first point dependent upon a logical connection between the displayed portion and the portion associated with the second point (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle). Schnelle does not disclose that information regarding said second point is displayed in a second display region, said first and second points being displayed in two display regions. However, Dolan discloses a method in which a predefined portion is displayed in a first display region (Figure 1, 104 of Dolan). Dolan also discloses a method in which a point is displayed in a multidimensional space for said predefined portion (Figure 1, 102 of Dolan). Dolan discloses a method in which a second point is displayed in the display region and information regarding the second point may be shown in the second display region (Figure 1, 102 of Dolan). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the methods of Schnelle with the methods of Dolan because it would allow a user to gain access to navigate to specific information within the hierarchy more quickly and efficiently (column 3, lines 52-60 of Dolan).

Regarding dependent claims 4-7, Schnelle discloses a method in which any number of points and axes may be derived from the first point for display (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle). Navigation abilities are included for navigated between points and axes and returning to the first point, which is an anchor,

when required (age 14, lines 9-38 of Schnelle). Schnelle does not disclose that information regarding said points is displayed in two display regions. However, Dolan discloses a method in which a predefined portion is displayed in a first display region (Figure 1, 104 of Dolan). Dolan also discloses a method in which a point is displayed in a multidimensional space for said predefined portion (Figure 1, 102 of Dolan). Dolan discloses a method in which a second point is displayed in the display region and information regarding the second point may be shown in the second display region (Figure 1, 102 of Dolan). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the methods of Schnelle with the methods of Dolan because it would allow a user to gain access to navigate to specific information within the hierarchy more quickly and efficiently (column 3, lines 52-60 of Dolan).

Regarding dependent claims 8 and 9, Schnelle discloses a method in which the second axis can represent time-based versions of said selected one of predefined portions and a predefined portion can be a provision of legislation (Figure 4 and page 13, line 38-page 14, line 38 of Schnelle).

Regarding dependent claim 10, Schnelle discloses a method in which the second axis may represent search criteria and results based on one of the selected predefined portions (page 18, line 16-27 of Schnelle).

Regarding dependent claim 98, Schnelle discloses a method in which the second axis can be temporal (Figure 4 and page 13, line 38-page 14, line 38 of Schnelle).

Regarding independent claim 12 and dependent claims 15-21 and 99, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 1, 4-10, and 98. Thus, the claims are rejected along the same rationale as claims 1, 4-10, and 98.

Regarding independent claim 23 and dependent claims 26-32 and 100, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 1, 4-10, and 98. Thus, the claims are rejected along the same rationale as claims 1, 4-10, and 98.

10. Claims 11, 22, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnelle et al. (hereinafter Schnelle, International Publication Number WO 98/34179, published on August 6, 1998) in view of Dolan et al. (hereinafter Dolan, US Patent Number 5,963,208, issued October 5, 1999) further in view of Weinberg et al. (hereinafter Weinberg, US Patent Number 6,144,962, filed on April 11, 1997).

Regarding independent claims 11, 22, and 33, Schnelle discloses a method in which a predefined portion of an electronic publication formed from predefined portions of text-based data encoded using a markup-language, each predefined portion having at least one attribute being a coordinate of an axis of said multidimensional space, wherein local connections among said predefined portions, and any logical connections between those portions and other portions correspond to one or more axes of said multidimensional space (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle). Schnelle also discloses displaying a point on a primary axis dependent upon an attribute of said predefined portion and displaying a second point on a second,

Art Unit: 2178

viewing axis orthogonal to said first axis, the second point being derived from said first point dependent upon a logical connection between the displayed portion and the portion associated with the second point (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle). Schnelle does not disclose that information regarding said second point is displayed in a second display region, said first and second points being displayed in two display regions. However, Dolan discloses a method in which a predefined portion is displayed in a first display region (Figure 1, 104 of Dolan). Dolan also discloses a method in which a point is displayed in a multidimensional space for said predefined portion (Figure 1, 102 of Dolan). Dolan discloses a method in which a second point is displayed in the display region and information regarding the second point may be shown in the second display region (Figure 1, 102 of Dolan). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the methods of Schnelle with the methods of Dolan because it would allow a user to gain access to navigate to specific information within the hierarchy more quickly and efficiently (column 3, lines 52-60 of Dolan). Neither Schnelle nor Dolan disclose a method in which a view comprises at least two anchor sets or the ability to adjust the view point to become the new base point. However, Weinberg discloses a method in which multiple anchor sets may be viewed, and that at any time the based point may be changed to a different view point (Figures 1-3 of Weinberg). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the methods of Schnelle and Dolan with the teachings of Weinberg

because it would have allowed navigation of multiple document structures from one view space.

11. Claims 34, 38, 43, 44, 47-50, 54, 58, 63, 64, 67-70, 74, 78, 83, 84, and 87-90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnelle et al. (hereinafter Schnelle, International Publication Number WO 98/34179, published on August 6, 1998) in view of Dolan et al. (hereinafter Dolan, US Patent Number 5,963,208, issued October 5, 1999) further in view of Fay (US Patent Number 5,892,513, issued on April 6, 1999).

Regarding dependent claim 34, Schnelle discloses a method in which predefined portions are stored in terminal nodes and one or more higher level nodes are provided for organizing said terminal nodes to correspond with a hierarchical structure embodied in the electronic publication (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle). One of the higher-level nodes has a null parent identity and said position indicator indicates a position of said higher-level node relative to a sibling node (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle). Neither Schnelle nor Dolan explicitly disclose that each higher-level node consists of the identity of a parent node, a position indicator, and an identifier. However, Fay discloses a method in which one or more higher-level nodes are used to organize the terminal nodes, in which all nodes include the identity of a parent node, a position indicator, and an identifier (Figure 3 and 4 of Fay). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the methods of Schnelle and Dolan with the

methods of Fay because it would have provided a structure in which each node could have operated independently.

Regarding dependent claim 38, Schnelle discloses a method in which a modified portion may be stored in the terminal nodes (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle).

Regarding dependent claim 43, neither Schnelle nor Dolan explicitly disclose that each terminal node consists of the identity of a parent node, a position indicator, and an identifier. However, Fay discloses a method in which all nodes include the identity of a parent node, a position indicator, and an identifier (Figure 3 and 4 of Fay). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the methods of Schnelle and Dolan with the methods of Fay because it would have provided a structure in which each node could have operated independently.

Regarding dependent claim 44, Schnelle discloses a method in which a position indicator indicates a position of said terminal node relative to a sibling node (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle).

Regarding dependent claim 47-49, Schnelle discloses a method in which a terminal node includes a predefined portion and a modified portion and a label of said publication, said label is data associated with a higher level node (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle).

Regarding dependent claim 50, Schnelle discloses a method in which the portion includes text associated with commentary (page 13, line 38-page 14, line 38 of Schnelle).

Regarding dependent claims 54, 58, 63, 64, and 67-70, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 34, 38, 43, 44, and 47-50. Thus, the claims are rejected along the same rationale as claims 34, 38, 43, 44, and 47-50.

Regarding dependent claims 74, 78, 83, 84, and 87-90, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 34, 38, 43, 44, and 47-50. Thus, the claims are rejected along the same rationale as claims 34, 38, 43, 44, and 47-50.

12. Claims 36, 45, 46, 51-53, 56, 65, 66, 71-73, 76, 85, 86, 91-93, and 95-97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnelle et al. (hereinafter Schnelle, International Publication Number WO 98/34179, published on August 6, 1998) in view of Dolan et al. (hereinafter Dolan, US Patent Number 5,963,208, issued October 5, 1999) further in view of Fay (US Patent Number 5,892,513, issued on April 6, 1999) as applied to claims 34, 54, and 74 above, further in view of McIntosh (US Patent Number 6,185,576, filed on October 21, 1998).

Regarding dependent claim 36, none of Schnelle, Dolan, or Fay disclose a method in which a portion is associated with a time during which it is valid. However, McIntosh discloses a method in which documents are associated with a scope, which defines when they are valid (column 31, line 21-column 46, line 45 of McIntosh). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to have combined the methods of Schnelle, Dolan, and Fay with the methods of McIntosh because it would have allowed easier management of time sensitive material.

Regarding dependent claims 45, 46, 51-53, and 95, none of Schnelle, Dolan, or Fay disclose a method in which a portion is associated with a time during which it is valid. However, McIntosh discloses a method in which documents (portions) are identified by a combination of identifiers and scopes, which include a start date, end date, and update date which falls between the start and end date (column 46, line 35-column 48 line 67 of McIntosh). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the methods of Schnelle, Dolan, and Fay with the methods of McIntosh because it would have allowed easier management of time sensitive material.

Regarding independent claim 94, Schnelle discloses a method in which predefined portions are stored in terminal nodes and one or more higher level nodes are provided for organizing said terminal nodes to correspond with a hierarchical structure embodied in the electronic publication (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle). One of the higher level nodes has a null parent identity and said position indicator indicates a position of said higher level node relative to a sibling node (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle). Schnelle also discloses a method in which the portion includes text associated with commentary (page 13, line 38-page 14, line 38 of Schnelle). Neither Schnelle nor Dolan explicitly disclose that each higher level node consists of the identity of a parent node, a position indicator, and an identifier. However, Fay discloses a method in which one or more

higher-level nodes are used to organize the terminal nodes, in which all nodes include the identity of a parent node, a position indicator, and an identifier (Figure 3 and 4 of Fay). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the methods of Schnelle and Dolan with the methods of Fay because it would have provided a structure in which each node could have operated independently.

None of Schnelle, Dolan, or Fay disclose a method in which a portion is associated with a time during which it is valid. However, McIntosh discloses a method in which documents (portions) are identified by a combination of identifiers and scopes, which include a start date, end date, and update date which falls between the start and end date (column 46, line 35-column 48 line 67 of McIntosh). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the methods of Schnelle, Dolan, and Fay with the methods of McIntosh because it would have allowed easier management of time sensitive material.

Regarding dependent claims 56, 65, 66, 71-73, and 96, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 36, 45, 46, 51-53, and 95. Thus, the claims are rejected along the same rationale as claims 36, 45, 46, 51-53, and 95.

Regarding dependent claims 71-73, 76, 85, 86, 91-93, and 97, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 36, 45, 46, 51-53, and 95. Thus, the claims are rejected along the same rationale as claims 36, 45, 46, 51-53, and 95.

Art Unit: 2178

13. Claims 39-42, 59-62, and 79-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnelle et al. (hereinafter Schnelle, International Publication Number WO 98/34179, published on August 6, 1998) in view of Dolan et al. (hereinafter Dolan, US Patent Number 5,963,208, issued October 5, 1999) further in view of Fay (US Patent Number 5,892,513, issued on April 6, 1999) as applied to claims 34, 54, and 74 above, further in view of Chau et al. (hereinafter Chau, US Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0133484, filing date of December 2, 1999).

Regarding dependent claims 39 and 40, Schnelle discloses a method in which XML data is divided into predefined portions (page 18, line 30-page 19, line 25 of Schnelle). None of Schnelle, Dolan, or Fay discloses a method in which predefined portions are stored in flat file records. However, Chau discloses a method in which portions of an XML file or stored in flat file records (page 5, paragraph 0078). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the methods of Schnelle, Dolan, and Fay with the methods of Chau because it would have allowed a user multiple ways to have stored the entire file, rather than simply in a database.

Regarding dependent claims 41 and 42, Schnelle discloses a method in which a terminal node includes a predefined portion and a modified portion and a label of said publication, said label is data associated with a higher-level node (Figures 3 and 4 and page 9, line 8-page 10, line 20 of Schnelle).

Regarding dependent claims 59-62, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 39-42. Thus, the claims are rejected along the same rationale as claims 39-42.

Regarding dependent claims 79-82, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 39-42. Thus, the claims are rejected along the same rationale as claims 39-42.

Response to Arguments

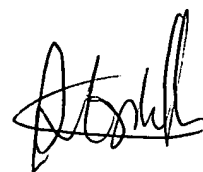
14. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-12, 15-23, 26-34, 36, 38-54, 56, 58-74, 76, and 78-100 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The claims as currently filed do not gain the benefit of the continuation-in-part date because none of the independent claims are fully disclosed by the continuation-in-part parent case (Patent Number 6,233,592). Prior to this action the only claims in question of gaining priority via the continuation in part were claims 1, 4-10, 12, 15-21, 23, 26-32, and 98-100, which the applicant has pointed out contain limitations which are not disclosed by the continuation-in-part parent case (page 3, lines 23-25 of arguments filed on 9/22/2005, in which the applicant states, "Schnelle does not disclose displaying the second predefined portion in a first display region while also displaying first and second points on respective first and second orthogonal axes, as defined by claim 1"). Thus, at this point all of the claims continue to have a effective filing date of 10/12/2000, and the rejection using the Schnelle publication in combination with the other references is proper.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D. Campbell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4133. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 AM - 4:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**

JDC
February 3, 2006